Appl. No. 09/687,157
Amdt. dated: _____ May 25, 2006 _____
Reply to Office Action of February 28, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for distributing content sent by a content distributor to a user location, the method comprising:

receiving a command from the content distributor to store the content at the user location before a user specifically requests the content, wherein the content comprises at least one of a video program or an audio program;

processing the command sent from a remote location with respect to the user location;

receiving the content at the user location;

storing the content at the user location in response to at least the processing the command; and

detecting a user action related to the content after storage of the content.

2. (Previously Presented) The method for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the content comprises at least one of a commercial, an infomercial, a show, or a movie.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the user location comprises a set top box.

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      5.   (Previously Presented) The method for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the content comprises storing the content on a mass storage device associated with a set top box that is associated with the user location.

      6.   (Previously Presented) The method for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

          determining a subset of content from a linear schedule of content associated with the content distributor; and

          transmitting the subset to the user location.

      7.   (Previously Presented) The method for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the processing the command comprises determining usage rules related to the content.

      8.   (Previously Presented) A method for distributing a content sent by a content distributor to a user location, the method comprising:

          commanding the user location to store the content from the content distributor without a user associated with the user location specifically requesting the content, wherein:

              the content is stored proximate to the user location, and

              the content distributor is remotely-located from the user location; and

          sending the content to the user location for storage before a user specifically requests the content, wherein the content comprises at least one of a video program or an audio program.

      9.   (Previously Presented) The method for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of determining a subset of content from a larger set of content, wherein the content is included in the subset.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising determining usage rules for the content.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising sending usage rules for the content to the user location.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, wherein the content is unmentioned in a linear schedule.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising broadcasting the content to a plurality of user locations.

14.   (Previously Presented) A distribution program product for distributing a content sent by a content distributor to a user location, the distribution program product comprising:

code for receiving a command from the content distributor to store the content at the user location before a user specifically requests the content, wherein the content comprises at least one of a video program or an audio program;

code for processing the command sent from a remote location with respect to the user location;

code for receiving the content at the user location;

code for storing the content at the user location in response to at least the processing the command;

code for detecting a user request for the content after storage of the content; and

a computer-readable medium for storing the codes.

15. (Previously Presented) The distribution program product for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the content comprises at least one of a commercial, an infomercial, a reoccurring show, or a movie.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The distribution program product for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the user location comprises a set top box.

18. (Previously Presented) The distribution program product for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the code for storing the content comprises code for storing the content on a mass storage device associated with a set top box that is associated with the user location.

19. (Previously Presented) The distribution program product for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, further comprising:
     code for determining a subset of content from a linear schedule of content associated with the content distributor; and
     code for transmitting the subset to the user location.

20. (Previously Presented) The distribution program product for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the code for processing the command comprises code for determining usage rules related to the content.

21. (Previously Presented) The method for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the content distributor sends the content from a remote point with respect to the user location.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method for distributing the content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the content is broadcast to a plurality of user locations,

the broadcast is coextensive-in-time for the plurality of user locations, and

the user location is part of the plurality of user locations.